

Safety On The Road

Stay Away From Power Lines!

Every year drivers and heavy equipment operators are involved in accidents involving power lines.

Hitting a power pole in a traffic accident or striking an overhead line with a high vehicle or load are two of the ways drivers can get tangled up with these deadly lines.

Here are some reminders of safety around power lines:

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and all power lines. The safe distance is regulated by law according to the voltage of the line.
- If you are working around the line, have a safety plan to prevent contact with the lines. Have the lines relocated or the power shut off if necessary.
- A trained signal person must be there to assist the operator of a vehicle around overhead lines. Make sure you know the signals. Agree upon the system of signals prior to moving the vehicle.
- As the vehicle operator, watch the overhead lines at all time to avoid getting too close. Maintain proper operating distances.

- Check the height of equipment — and the load — before proceeding.

- Also check for uneven ground or pavement which could cause the vehicle to move unexpectedly too close to the lines. Wind and even air temperature could also make a difference in affecting the height or position of the lines.

- Do not ride on a load near a power line.

What if your vehicle does come into contact with a power line, or knock one down?

- Stay in your vehicle until help arrives. Do not touch metal parts of the vehicle.
- Keep others away from the area.
- Call the power company, or have someone else place the call, so the power can be turned off.
- What if you have to exit the vehicle before the power is turned

off, in the case of a life-threatening fire, for instance? Jump clear of the vehicle, as far as you can, landing with both feet together. Hop as far away as possible. These steps are to minimize the possibly of electrical current in the ground going through your body.

- If you do hit a power line or knock down a pole, contact the utility company immediately so others can be protected from possible electrocution too.

When working too close to electrical wires, a moment's miscalculation or misfortune can result in electrocution. Keep a safe distance from power lines!

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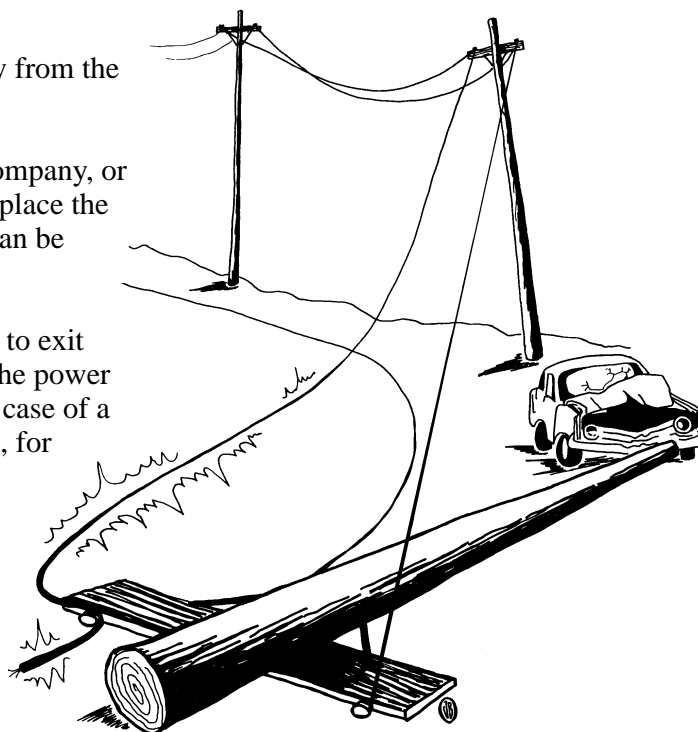
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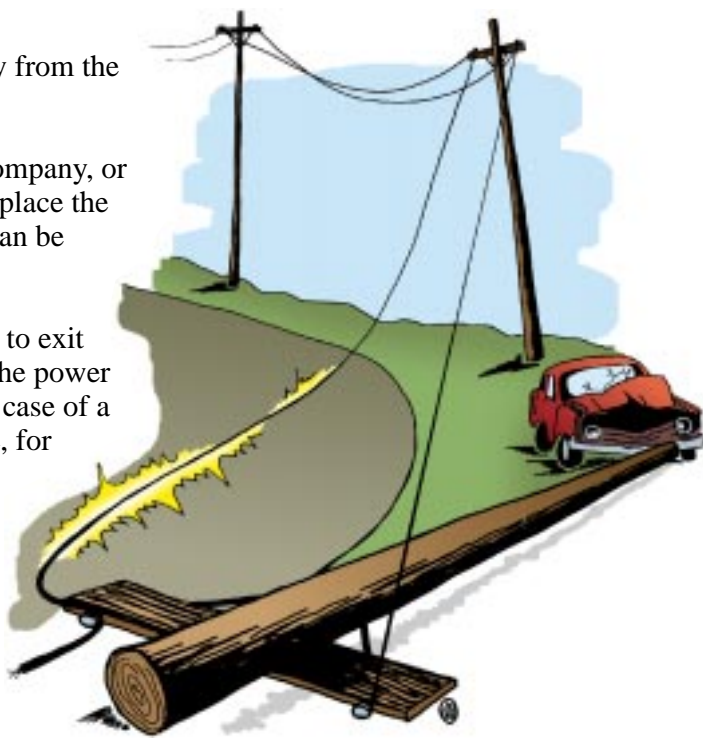
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